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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 30, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 24 totaled an estimated 13.8 billion ton-miles, 12.7 percent above the corresponding period a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 51 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 814.6 billion ton-miles, 3.6 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 24 totaled 319,847 cars, 21.8 percent over the 1982 week which included the Christmas holiday, but 16.5 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 48.0 percent in the East and 40.0 percent in the South, but down 2.4 percent in the West due to severe weather conditions.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up 7,804 cars, or 90.1 percent. Other commodities showing sharp increases were: chemicals and allied products, up 6,304 cars, or 38.8 percent, metals and products, up 3,565 cars, or 75.4 percent; and primary forest products, up 3,514 cars, or 45.4 percent. All 21 groups declined from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 17 totaled 50,276 cars, up 21.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1982, and 91,791 trailers and/or containers, 25.5 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 50 weeks of the year was 2,264,053 cars, 21.7 percent higher than last year, and 3,940,578 trailers and/or containers, up 19.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/24/83:

	Loadings in Week ended December 24, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	22,567	I	3,335	17.3	D	7,004	23.7
Other farm products	3,219	D	410	11.3	D	582	15.3
Metallic ores	11,775	I	1,420	13.7	D	2,082	15.0
Coal	83,406	I	2,176	2.7	D	25,507	23.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	6,879	I	2,576	59.9	D	2,247	24.6
Nonmetallic minerals	10,346	I	1,993	23.9	D	772	6.9
Grain mill products	10,364	I	303	3.0	D	498	4.6
Food and kindred products	9,688	D	389	3.9	D	1,631	14.4
Primary forest products	11,250	I	3,514	45.4	D	3,264	22.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,773	I	1,807	36.4	D	215	3.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,918	I	2,664	21.7	D	223	1.5
Chemicals and allied products	22,563	I	6,304	38.8	D	905	3.9
Petroleum products	4,542	I	783	20.8	D	246	5.1
Stone, clay and glass products	7,559	I	1,041	16.0	D	2,261	23.0
Coke	4,787	I	640	15.4	D	481	9.1
Metals and products	8,248	I	3,545	75.4	D	305	3.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,468	I	7,804	90.1	D	5,107	23.7
Waste and scrap materials	7,641	I	2,903	61.3	D	1,554	16.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,377	I	2,485	42.2	D	1,638	16.4
All other carloads	48,277	I	13,066	37.1	D	6,708	12.2
LCL traffic	200	D	397	66.5	D	31	13.4
Total Cars Loaded	319,847	I	57,163	21.8	D	63,261	16.5
Corresponding week of 1982	262,684						

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (51 weeks)	18,567,451	18,263,432	I 1.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
50 weeks ended December 17	800.8	774.0	I 3.5
Week ended December 24	13.8	12.3	I 12.7
51 weeks cumulative	814.6	786.3	I 3.6

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